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505 Swift Blvd. • Box 190 • Richland, Washington 99352 • (509) 942-7390 • FAX (509) 942-5066

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
June 7, 1999

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DOE-RL / DIS

Thomas W. Ferns, HRA-EIS Document Manager
US Department of Energy, Richland Operations
PO Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352

**Re: REVISED DRAFT HANFORD REMEDIAL ACTION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT AND COMPREHENSIVE LAND-USE PLAN, DOE/EIS-0222D**

Dear Mr. Ferns:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on plans for the future use of the Hanford site. As you know, Richland's history, and our future, is closely tied to the Hanford site.

Portions of the Hanford site are within Richland's Urban Growth Area. The State of Washington's Growth Management Act requires that the City develop long-term plans for the beneficial use of these lands. Toward the fulfillment of these requirements, the City of Richland joined with representatives from the Department of Energy, their consultants, and Benton, Franklin and Grant Counties to develop a plan for the future use of the Hanford site. This year long planning process, which was based on the best available information, resulted in a recommended plan, which is referred to as Alternative Three in the above referenced EIS.

The City of Richland is concerned with the protection of natural and cultural resources. The City was the first local government to support legislation for the protection of the Hanford Reach. We also favor the protection of Rattlesnake Mountain as a nature preserve. However, we also recognize the importance of the Hanford site in the economic growth of our community and the region. In particular, much of the southeast portion of the site is supported by utility infrastructure and could be characterized as urban in nature. We believe that this portion of the site should be planned for future industrial uses.

In summary, we strongly support the land use patterns expressed in alternative three. We would also ask that consideration be given to the railroad uses expressed in the Port of Benton's recent letter to you. We look forward to continuing our involvement in this process and look forward to its successful conclusion.

Sincerely,

Ron Rabun
City Manager

